

98-407

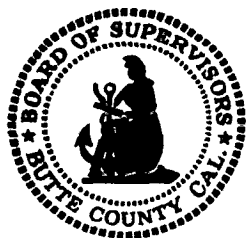
FRED C. DAVIS, Chair
Fifth District

R.J. BEELEER
First District

JANE DOLAN
Second District

MARY ANNE HOUX
Third District

CURT JOSIASSEN
Fourth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER

25 COUNTY CENTER DRIVE - OROVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95965

TELEPHONE: (530) 538-7224

November 16, 1998

Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

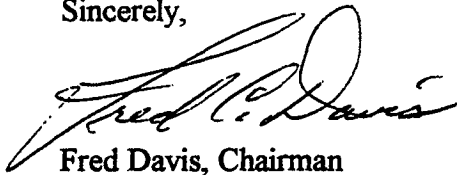
Dear Mr. Snow:

The Butte County Board of Supervisors recently sent the attached correspondence to the members of the CALFED Ecosystem Roundtable regarding a proposed project to open up Butte Creek Canyon to salmon and steelhead passage. The proposal for this project was submitted by the Institute for Fisheries Resources in response to the CALFED Proposal Solicitation Package for Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs released in May 1998. This project was listed as Proposal #98-A1004 on the CALFED Restoration Coordination Program 1998 Funding Package Summary Table for Proposed Projects and agendized for discussion at the Ecosystem Roundtable meeting on October 28, 1998.

Our concern with this project evolves from the fact that the Executive Summary of this proposal does not provide for local government's role in this project. This is also true of other restoration and land acquisition projects within Butte County that have been funded by CALFED in the recent past. This lack of consideration by CALFED with regard to the role of the County is unacceptable. We feel strongly that local support for such plans or acquisitions should be obtained and documented prior to the allocation of funding, allowing local government to become involved at the beginning of the process, rather than forcing us to play catch-up after the fact. Local government should play a lead role in the development and planning stages of watershed projects to assure that they are consistent with the general plan for our county and are in the best interests of our residents. Funding projects in the dark, without consulting landowners and impacted County departments, as CALFED has done in the past, results in mistrust of the project from the beginning by the County, as well as other potentially impacted stakeholders. Furthermore, this practice has resulted in the expenditure of general fund monies to monitor watershed projects on behalf of our citizenry.

The Butte County Water Commission and the Butte County Board of Supervisors wish to have input into the CALFED process because it will impact the health and safety of our residents and the local economy. We would like to work in conjunction with you to make the funding process amiable to your needs, as well as the needs of the County. Therefore, we request a meeting with you as soon as possible to discuss our concerns further before the next round of funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Davis".

Fred Davis, Chairman
Butte County Board of Supervisors